From this time the boundaries remained unchanged until
the settlement of the national boundaries by the cession of 1783,
in which, on October 20, the General Assembly passed an act
authorizing the delegates in Congress to convey to the United
States all the Territory northwest of the Ohio River*

1862-3.—The territory now constituting the State of West Virginia†
was by the vote of the people separated from Virginia    It
consisted of the three Northwestern Virginia Senatorial Dis-
tricts.

## THE KINGSTON EARTHQUAKE.

On the afternoon of January 14 Kingston, the capital of
Jamaica, a city of about 80,000 inhabitants, was practically de-
stroyed by earthquake and fire.   The deaths number over 1,000.
There were about 10,000 houses in the city and parish of Kingston,
of which about 96 per cent. were wholly or partly of brick.   Not
one hundred of these buildings was in a habitable condition after
the calamity.   The comparatively few wooden bridges were mostly
mere huts and were not badly injured.   The first shock came at
3.30 P.M., and continued only about thirty seconds.   Fire followed
immediately, and in a few hours the destruction was complete.
Within the first week after the calamity about fifteen severe shocks
occurred.   As the cable lines were damaged the news could not be
sent to America and England for about a day.  Only about a fourth
of the population, mostly the very poor, remained in the city,
camping on the race-course, in the parks, and in other open spaces.

Kingston was close to the seismic focus.   The motion for a
little over thirty seconds is described as like that felt on a ship in
a choppy sea.   The movement was chiefly vertical.   Objects are
described as jumping from the ground, which, if true, shows how
violent was the shock.   The rails of the street-car routes were
twisted, water-supply pipes were damaged, and the sinking of the
shore-line showed that the superficial beds, at any rate, underwent
important changes of level.

Port Royal, six miles to the south, shared to a great extent in

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* American History Leaflet No. 22.   By Hart and Channing.  p. 12.

† Constitution framed November, 1861–February, 1862, and ratified by the popular vote in April,
1862.   Bill for the admission of the state passed the United States Senate July 14, 1862.   State for-
mally inaugurated June 20, 1863.

The Rending of Virginia.  G. D. Hall.  pp. 26–27.

the ruin, but outside a radius of ten to twelve miles from Kingston the loss to property is small. That, in its initial power, the earthquake was inferior to those of Valparaiso and San Francisco is clear from the smallness of the region that was severely disturbed, and also from the comparatively slight disturbances recorded at Shide, Edinburgh, and other far-distant seismic observatories.

Mr. Charles Davison, formerly Secretary of the British Association's Earth Tremors Committee, calls attention in the *London Times* (weekly edition, January 25, 1907) to the fact that the foundation of Kingston consists of beds of sand and gravel, brought down from the northern mountains. It is on ground of this kind that earthquake shocks attain their maximum intensity. At Charleston in 1886, and at San Francisco last year, the greatest damage was done on made land filling up old creeks or low-lying ground. During the Tokio earthquake of 1894 the range and intensity of the disturbance, as measured from seismographic records, were about twice as great on low, soft ground as on the hard chalk rock in the higher part of the city. Mr. Davison adds:

Almost the whole boundary of the Caribbean Sea is a band in intermittent motion . . . Jamaica is situated in the very position in which great earthquakes are to be expected, in which the ocean-bed shelves with great rapidity, not on one side alone, as in most earthquake-countries, but to the north even more steeply than to the south. San Francisco, Columbia, and Valparaiso are all situated on the margin of a great slope, while near the east coast of Japan lies one of the deepest regions of the globe.

He urges that, if Kingston is rebuilt on its present site, it may again be visited by great earthquakes, and that their effects will be all the more serious on account of the low-lying position of the town and the loose and friable nature of its foundation. There is no other harbour in the island to compare with the extensive haven between Kingston and Port Royal, and the new town will certainly not be far distant from its shores.

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## NAMES OF TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The names applied to many of our most conspicuous geographical features, such as the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachians, and others, have not been used uniformly to cover exactly the same areas. Inexactness and confusion naturally resulted from the fact that there had been no authoritative decisions as to the extent of the regions to which these various names applied.

The United States Geographic Board, about the middle of last